

REMARKS

Claims 11, 22 and 23 have been amended to correct a typographical error. Specifically, the term "alkalizing" has been corrected to "alkalinizing", which is supported in the specification and, for example, in original claim 1.

A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted concurrently herewith over USP 6,699,502 maturing from the parent application.

The obvious-type double patenting rejection is thus overcome.

Lastly, the Examiner requested support for the alkalinizing agent of claim 22, i.e. alkali metal carbonate. Support for alkali metal carbonates is found in original claim 1, subparagraph c).

It is obvious that the recitation "alkali or alkaline-earth metal" appearing in the phrase "selected from alkali or alkaline-earth metal hydroxides, carbonates, bicarbonates and phosphates, sodium borate as well as the basis salts of organic acids" applies to carbonates, bicarbonates and phosphates as well as hydroxides. See page 5, lines 4-11. See Table 1, line 7 of page 8, exemplifying an alkali-earth metal carbonate, i.e. in Na_2CO_3 . See page 10, lines 35-36 teaching sodium bicarbonate and potassium hydrogen phosphate as alkali metal bicarbonates and phosphates. See also Table 6, lines 6, 7 and 8 on page 11 of the specification.

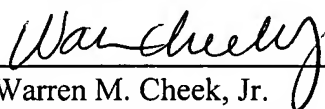
In view of the foregoing, it is apparent that claim 22 is supported in the specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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